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UM enrollment hits an all-time high

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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 27, 2002

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UM ENROLLMENT HITS AN ALL-TIME HIGH

MISSOULA –

The number of students attending The University of Montana this fall has climbed above 13,000, marking the highest enrollment ever on the 109-year-old Missoula campus.

A record 13,058 students are registered for classes this fall – an increase of 390 or 3.1 percent over last fall's 12,668 enrollment. This goes down in the books as the largest increase in headcount for fall semester that UM has experienced in at least a decade. Enrollment traditionally has grown by between 100 and 200 students each fall since 1990.

Full-time equivalents (FTEs) also rose from 11,191 during fall 2001 to 11,388 this fall for an overall increase of 1.8 percent. An FTE represents 15 undergraduate or 12 graduate semester credits.

UM President George Dennison attributes the increase to University employees working harder to recruit and to maintain academic quality during financially tough times.

"It's very gratifying that the students continue to come the University," Dennison said. "Apparently they find an appropriate exchange between what they pay for and what they get. I think the enrollment increase is a tribute to our faculty and staff. It shows that we do deliver on our promise."

Dennison was particularly pleased with the record enrollment of 455 American Indian students. Recruiting more minority students, especially Indians, has been an emphasis for the president since he arrived at UM in 1990. That year's Indian enrollment was 239. It has steadily

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climbed, especially in the last two years when 376 Indian students were enrolled during fall 2000 and 415 during fall 2001.

“We made rapid progress on a goal we set several years ago,” said Ray Carlisle, director of UM’s Educational Opportunity Program. “President Dennison is determined to increase diversity across the board, including student enrollment.”

With more transfer and graduate students and undergraduate Montana residents this year, the overall enrollment increase is consistent across most levels, said UM Registrar Phil Bain. The University’s seven professional schools and the College of Technology all experienced a boost in enrollment. The COT posted the single largest increase – 10 percent with 933 students this semester. Enrollment of nonresident students declined slightly from 3,089 last fall to 3,051 this semester.

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